

FUTCHER SAVES DAY FOR LUTON

Luton 1 Mansfield 1

Luton, whose 7-1 trouncing of Charlton was the high spot of an effervescent start to the Second Division season, have now not won at home for two months. The frustration showed among their lowest home attendance of the season. 77/78

Though Mansfield won a valuable point in their battle to avoid one of the relegation places, they were helped enormously by Luton's inaccurate distribution.

There may have been some excuse for Luton; Mansfield borrowed their change strip before the kick-off to avoid a clash of colours.

When Sharkey sent Syrett racing through to beat Aleksic and open the scoring for Mansfield after 28 minutes, Luton, having suffered the shock of losing to bottom club Burnley in their last home match, seemed to be on their way to another crushing reverse.

Patience rewarded

They showed a marked improvement, however, in the second half. Their patience was rewarded four minutes from the end when Faulkner and Fuccillo combined to create the chance for Ron Futcher to score with a header, despite Wood's frantic attempt to clear.

Between the two goals, there was little to enthuse over. Buckley beat Mansfield's defensive wall with a free kick that struck a post. John Aston, transferred from Luton to Mansfield earlier in the season, caused few problems for his former team-mates.

Luton.—Aleksic; Price. Buckley, West, Faulkner, Jones, Husband (sub. Stein, 78 mins), Hill, R. Futcher, Fuccillo, Boersma.

Mansfield.—Arnold; Bird, B. Foster, Sharkey, C. Foster, Wood, Miller, Goodwin (sub: Saxby, 53 mins), Syrett, Hodgson, Aston.